

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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14 February 1968

Yugoslavia Courts Albania?

Fadil Hodza, presidium member of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, stated in a 12 February speech that poor relations between Belgrade and Tirana would "serve only (the) purposes harbored by hegemonistic, aggressive forces which cannot be friendly disposed either to Yugoslavia or Albania." ^{25X1} ^{25X1} Moreover, Hodza's speech pledged Belgrade would continue efforts to normalize Yugoslav-Albanian relations.

COMMENT: Yugoslavia apparently is attempting to solicit Albanian support against Bulgarian "claims" on Macedonia, by pointing out that the "greater" Bulgaria of the San Stefano Treaty includes parts of Albania. While Belgrade's overtures have met with little results, the unlikely prospect of Yugoslavia joining forces with Peking's only ally in opposition to Bulgaria (a strong supporter of Soviet policy), would present an interesting picture on the eve of the Budapest Conference.

Yugoslavs Implicate USSR in Macedonian Dispute

The Belgrade daily Politika on 12 February criticized a study by Soviet and Bulgarian historians for ignoring the existence of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. The paper quoted a Tanyug dispatch from Moscow entitled "Lament for Greater Bulgaria" concerning the historical work called "The Liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish Yoke."

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COMMENT: This is the first time that the Yugoslavs have publically implicated the Soviets in the present imbroglio over Macedonia. Although some Yugoslav officials suspect that Moscow is behind the Bulgarian press campaign which revived the Macedonian issue, there is no evidence as yet to confirm their suspicions.

Soviet Ambassador in East Berlin Seeks Meeting With Western Counterparts

Soviet Ambassador to East Berlin, Abrasimov, has expressed a desire to meet with US Ambassador McGhee. When the Mission informed the Soviet protocol officer Khrustalev, who conveyed the request, that such a meeting could be arranged during Ambassador McGhee's next regularly scheduled visit to Berlin, Khrustalev replied that he hoped it could

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take place when Ambassador McGhee felt well enough (McGhee is recuperating from a gall bladder operation). The Mission suggested that a meeting in March might be appropriate, but Khrustalev replied that Abrasimov would be away from 3 March until the "twenties" of March and suggested that the meeting be scheduled during the second half of February.

Khrustalev also told the French Mission that Ambassador Abrasimov would like to meet with Ambassador Seydoux before the end of February. In response to a question, Khrustalev said that, while Abrasimov had no "urgent" matter to discuss, it is always useful to discuss "important questions."

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COMMENT: Abrasimov's attitude toward such meetings has changed considerably since last November when he declined Allied invitations for luncheon meetings. He apparently wants to meet with Western ambassadors before he leaves, presumably for Moscow, and may hope to hold such meetings before the Budapest conference scheduled to begin 26 February. One possible topic Abrasimov might raise is the Bundestag Committee meetings scheduled to be held in Berlin on 4 - 8 March.

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East Germans Again Comment On Possible Renunciation of Force Agreements

Again demonstrating concern that talks on renunciation of force between Moscow and Bonn might develop at the expense of the GDR, the East Germans have pointedly raised the ante which the Soviets have demanded the West Germans must meet in order to have an exchange on non-use of force.

The East German concern was expressed in the 9 February edition of Neues Deutschland which carried the text of an article prepared by the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The article generally castigates Bonn for allegedly maneuvering against the renunciation of force agreements.

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According to the article, Bonn's readiness to conclude a renunciation of force agreement with the GDR and other Eastern European states "at the same time" is an "obvious precondition" for a West German-Soviet agreement. The 29 January Soviet note ignores the timing involved in this issue, and states only that it is of "primary importance" that such agreements be reached "under the same conditions." The East Germans state that renunciation of force agreements and sole representation claims are mutually exclusive, while the Soviet note "presupposes" that Bonn will "define its standpoint" on sole representation as well as other matters. The East Germans insist on the primacy of the sole representation issue and warn against talks being stretched out "endlessly," stating in effect that this tonic should be discussed before any of the others.

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Leftists, Neo-Nazis Clash in West Berlin

Leftist demonstrators interrupted a meeting of the Nazi-oriented National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) meeting in a restaurant in the American Sector on 6 February. Some 100 persons were expelled by police when they began shouting "Out with the Nazis!" and "Re-establish the KPD!"

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COMMENT: This was the first such clash between the two groups and might have been serious if the police had not intervened promptly. The call to re-establish the outlawed German Communist Party (KPD) is a recurrent theme in West Germany and Berlin.

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